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Wing delivers supplies, hope to earthquake victims



photos by Senior Airman Javier Cruz

Above, Senior Airman Taylor James, a combat mobility element Airman assigned to the 374th Air Expeditionary Group uses a forklift to place a pallet of medical supplies on a truck for transport at Yogyakarta, Indonesia as part of humanitarian relief efforts in the country. Left, a group of men load supplies onto a truck in Yogyakarta. They are from the Red Cross International Federation in Palang Erah, Indonesia.

By Capt. Warren Comer
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 374th Air Expeditionary Group completed several missions to deliver relief supplies after a devastating earthquake killed more than 6,200 people and displaced or left thousands homeless.

Two C-130 Hercules aircraft were deployed to Paya Lebar Air Base with approximately 85 Airmen to help assist forward-deployed personnel in Indonesia.

"We deployed to help at the request of the Indonesian government," said Col. William Davidson, 374th AEG commander. "We rapidly responded with critically needed capabilities to deliver relief to areas requiring immediate aid."

During the first mission on June 1, combat mobility element Airmen, their supplies and a forklift were deployed to Yogyakarta, Indonesia to help get relief efforts underway.

Airmen supporting the mission in Indonesia said they are glad they can be of assistance.

"We're interacting with the people and helping them on a personal basis. You get to know and experience what the Indonesian people are experiencing and provide comfort during their time of need," said Senior Airman Joshua Joslyn, CME Airman.

Airmen from Yokota Air Base

helped pave the way to quickly and efficiently get supplies in the hands of the people who need them.

"My condolences go out to the families who lost loved ones and those left without shelter and food," said Colonel Davidson. "It's our hope that our relief efforts will help lessen their suffering and anguish."

On Monday, approximately 50 Airmen returned when it was determined their support to relief efforts were no longer needed. A small group of Airmen have remained behind to support loading and unloading of aircraft as well as any communication support that might be needed. The Airmen will stay in the region as long as the government of Indonesia needs their assistance.

"I couldn't be prouder of the team that deployed to Singapore and Indonesia to support the overall humanitarian mission to Yogyakarta," said Lt. Col. Kirk Lear, 374th Expeditionary Aircraft Squadron commander. "We got to our deployed locations immediately after being tasked by Pacific Air Forces. Thanks to excellent support from our hosts in Singapore from the 497th Combat Training Squadron and 730th Air Mobility Squadron Detachment 2, we placed a Combat Mobility Element in Indonesia to help get supplies in the hands of organizations that would distribute them to the people who needed it most."

Typhoon forecast average as season kicks off this month

By Senior Airman Katie Thomas
Editor

June 1 marked the beginning of another typhoon season for the Pacific.

This year's season looks to be average, with three to four typhoons coming close enough to the Kanto Plain to affect its bases, which include Yokota, according to the base weather flight.

"On average, 34 typhoons form in the western Pacific each season but few actually make it far enough to affect us," said Maj. Erin Willingham, 374th Operations Support Squadron weather flight commander.

When typhoons do make it to the Kanto Plain, community members can expect heavy rains and high winds. These can cause localized flooding and debris as well as damage to infrastructure.

Areas favorable for the formation of tropical storms and typhoons are analyzed at the Joint Typhoon Warning Center sta-

tioned at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. If organized convection should occur, the weather Airmen and Sailors at the warning center use their specialized training and equipment to issue forecasted storm tracks.

When a typhoon is forecasted to potentially affect the Kanto Plain, the U.S. Forces-Japan commander is advised of the storm's potential. The commander may then implement a TCCOR, or Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness, for the Kanto Plain. Community members should stay alert to changes in TCCOR.

Servicemembers and their families should have a family plan ready. Be prepared for the possibility of schools, Child Development Centers and base services closures when a typhoon is imminent.

Community members should have at least a few days' worth of food and bottled water along with a radio and extra batteries on hand.

"It is very important for families to

Tropical Cyclone Conditions of Readiness

As the number gets lower, the typhoon gets closer – be prepared for the storm

TCCOR 4 = winds of 50 knots or greater are possible within 72 hours; get emergency supplies.

TCCOR 3 = winds of 50 knots or greater are possible within 48 hours; fill vehicle gas tanks, gather important documents and have sufficient cash on hand.

TCCOR 2 = winds of 50 knots or greater are anticipated within 24 hours; secure outdoor items.

TCCOR 1 = winds of 50 knots or greater are anticipated within 12 hours; move items away from windows.

TCCOR Caution = winds of 34 to 49 knots are occurring; remain indoors.

TCCOR Emergency = winds of 50 knots or greater are occurring; remain indoors away from windows.

TCCOR Recovery = winds of 50 knots are not forecast to occur; remain indoors as damage is assessed and clean-up is accomplished.

All Clear = the threat of severe weather is over; normal activities can be resumed.

clean up their yards and tower balconies before a typhoon," said Major Willingham. "Objects such as sprinklers and children's toys can become projectiles with high winds, causing damage or injury."

Prepare to limit travel once the Kanto Plain goes into TCCOR 1, when typhoon winds could arrive within 12 hours.

"Stay alert by monitoring AFN, the Commander's Access Channel or Eagle 810 for the latest TCCOR information," said Major Willingham.

The forecasted tracks of typhoons are available at the Joint Typhoon Weather Center website. Community members can visit <http://metoc.npmoc.navy.mil/jtwc.html>.

Light it up

Staff Sgt. Jason Barefield, 374th Maintenance Squadron, looks for corrosions, deformities and broken rivets on a right-forward external pylon leading edge wing panel of a C-130 Hercules aircraft stationed here. He is an aircraft engine mechanic. The squadron's mission is to provide combat-ready personnel, equipment and organizational support to inspect, service and repair C-130 Hercules aircraft stationed and in-transit.



photo by Val Gempis

Pellet, BB gun trend dangerous, unlawful

By Capt. Ben Alumbaugh
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Members of Team Yokota are reminded that importing any handguns, rifles, pellet or BB guns onto Yokota Air Base is strictly prohibited.

"We've recently noticed a trend in people using or possessing pellet or BB guns," said Capt. Mel Turner, 374th Security Forces Squadron. "In one case we had some teenagers firing BB guns at each other on base."

Although Japan sells pellet and BB guns, there are some restrictions imposed by U.S. Forces-Japan regulations on the type and size of BB or pellet guns that can be owned by military members here in Japan.

"The bottom line for Yokota though is this: no pellet or BB gun is allowed on the installation," said the captain. "For Status of Forces Agreement personnel living off base, there are still regulations on the types of BB or pellet guns they can have."

According to the 374th Airlift Wing Supplement to the USFJ AFI 31-207, minors are not permitted to own a firearm in Japan, and may not carry or use a firearm outside of a USFJ installation for any reason.

"As we are all well aware, our behavior on and off base can harm the great relationship with our host nation," said Captain Turner. "Not only that, but acting irresponsibly with these firearms can jeopardize people's jobs and more importantly their lives."

For more information, contact Security Forces at 225-7227.

Pets require extra attention during station move

By Senior Airman Katie Thomas
Editor

Families are not the only ones moving during the military moving season.

Pets often accompany servicemembers and their families as they change bases, however pets have special considerations that take time and careful planning.

Owners must start working on meeting their pets' requirements as soon as they are notified they will be moving, said representatives at the base Traffic Management Office.

Calls should be made to TMO and the pets' veterinarian first.

Visiting TMO as soon as possible is vital because there is limited pet space available on each flight, said TMO representatives.

The veterinarian will issue the proper paperwork, including vaccination records and a health certificate. The servicemember's sponsor at their next base can

also check on breed and quarantine requirements.

Pet owners can also visit <http://www.usarj.army.mil/organization/vet/zama/services.htm> for more information about moving to and from Yokota with a pet.

Pet owners must pay for shipping their pet with them on the Patriot Express. Payment is required at the time of check in for their flight and must be paid in cash or by check. If the combined weight of the pet and kennel is up to 70 pounds, the cost is \$90; 71 to 140 pounds, \$180; and 141 to 150 pounds, \$360.

Pet owners should also keep in mind that their pets' kennels cannot be soft-sided or collapsible; only hard-shell cases are allowed. Pets should be able to stand up and turn around in their kennels, and they must stay in their own cages at all times while in the terminal itself, said Sonyia Vasquez, 730th Air Mobility Squadron passenger terminal.

The day of the flight, families can keep their pets with them up until they enter the gate area to board their flight. They can also choose to hand over the pets when they check-in that day, and the pets will be held in a cool, secure area. This area ensures Yokota has no heat embargo on pets.

"Commercial airlines have a heat embargo during summer months due to the fact that they cannot put the pets in a holding area before transporting them to the aircraft," said Mrs. Vasquez. "Our cool holding area allows us to load the pets onto the aircraft directly before the departure."

Only two pets can be checked in for each family, and only cats and dogs are permitted.

For more information, community members can call the following agencies:

-Traffic Management Office, 225- 9724;
-Yokota veterinary clinic, 225-4363;
-or the passenger terminal, 225-5661.

Birth announcements

April 14 – Lauren Elyse Brochu, seven-pound, nine-ounce daughter of Kelly and Gilles Brochu.

April 14 – Kathleen Lea Ann Jordan, nine-pound, 14-ounce daughter of Meghann and Matthew Jordan.

May 11 – Ayla Sumire Meier, five-pound, 10-ounce daughter of Izumi and Joshua Meier.

May 15 – Jessica Minah Pak, seven-pound, six-ounce daughter of Justin and Yeong Sik Pak.

May 21 – Michael Allen Hardy, eight-pound, three-ounce son of Michelle and Clyde Hardy.

Nihon-go now

⇒ **It is rainy season.**

Ame no ooi kisetu desu.

(ah-meh no ooh-ee kee-seh-t-soo dess.)

⇒ **I would like to buy that umbrella.**

Watashi wa kasa o kaitai desu.

(wah-tah-shee wah kah-sah oh kah-ee-tah-ee dess.)

AD

A helping hand in host-nation relations



photo by Staff Sgt. Karen J. Tomasik

Sloane Wendell points out some garbage along the Tama River to her son Dawson during the annual Tama River clean-up June 4. They were two of nearly 50 Yokota community members who helped pick up trash that day. The event brought together community members and local Japanese citizens for the 14th year, building upon a relationship of goodwill and environmental stewardship.

Donors, volunteers needed during blood drive at Yujo Recreation Center

By Senior Airman Katie Thomas
Editor

The Armed Services Blood Bank will be in town again June 12 and 13 at the Yujo Recreation Center from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The 12-member team is looking to collect 100 units of blood during the blood drive here.

Representatives from the local American Red Cross chapter here are optimistic the goal will be met and exceeded since the base out-did that same goal in 2005 with 140 units donated.

“Last year’s drive was successful not only in numbers but also the smooth operation and flow allowing that many people to donate,” said Connie Harvey, American Red Cross.

Community members must be at least 17 years old to donate, and donors under age 18 must have a parent’s permission and escort to give blood.

Donors must also go through a series of questions relating to their health and lifestyle to determine if they are eligible at that time to donate.

People are often disqualified from donating for the following reasons:

- √ returning from Iraq or Afghanistan in the past 12 months;
 - √ returning from an area north of Seoul, Korea, within the past 24 months including a Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) tour;
 - √ donating blood within the past 56 days;
 - √ receiving a tattoo, body piercing or acupuncture within the past 12 months;
 - √ receiving a blood product transfusion within the past 12 months;
 - √ living in Europe for six months or longer total from 1980 to 1996, or lived in the United Kingdom for three months or longer total from 1980 to 1996;
 - √ traveled recently to a malaria-endemic area as defined by the Food and Drug Administration;
 - √ a history of hepatitis after age 11;
 - √ a history of cancer;
 - √ ever engaged in high-risk behavior or have had intimate contact with anyone at risk for AIDS;
 - √ have an allergy to betadine, iodine, shellfish or latex;
 - √ been pregnant in the past six weeks.
- These questions and many

others help medical professionals keep the blood supply safe from contamination, said Red Cross representatives.

Community members interested in donating can look through a list of other health and lifestyle guidelines at <http://www.redcross.org/donate/give/>.

There is also a need for volunteers to assist with the blood drive itself. People are needed to help sign in donors and to aid them after the blood is drawn. Shifts are slated for two hours beginning at 7:30 a.m. each day during the drive, except the final shift which is from 3:30 to 6 p.m.

People are also needed to help set up the blood drive June 11 from 5 to 7 p.m., and tear down June 11 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Cookies are also needed for donors to eat after giving blood to help boost their body systems.

“There is always a need for blood,” said Ms. Harvey. “We encourage people to make appointments and to walk-in whenever they have time to donate.”

If community members would like to donate blood, volunteer or make cookies for the donors, they can call the American Red Cross here at 225-7522.

AD

Son remembers his father's, family's journey

By Maj. Miklos Kiss

374th Maintenance Operations Squadron

We all carry the baggage and lessons of our ancestors. They shape and mold who we are. I thought it would be fitting on Father's Day to share my immigrant father's story with you. His journey inspired my Air Force service, and I hope it will make you proud to be an American, grateful for your freedoms, and consider that immigration and diversity make America stronger.

My father was born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1940 into a world engulfed in war. His father Karoly, my grandfather, fought in World War II—on the other side.

Grandfather Karoly survived a winter on the Russian front fighting alongside the German army and an 800-kilometer march through the Ukraine where one out of three men died. I remember him telling me he too would have died had not a German noncommissioned officer violently kicked him in the behind to rouse him from a roadside nap which would have surely ended in freezing to death.

Karoly was released from the Army and returned to Budapest in early 1944 only to have his neighborhood bombed by American B-24s. In the summer of 1944, my dad can still remember the day a German officer knocked on the door asking for his father's and the family's identity papers to prove they were not Jews. My grandfather could retell the visit like it was yesterday.

"I've never seen such an immaculate uniform in my entire life. Pressed black fabric, dual lightening bolts on the collar. The officer was blond with blue eyes. He stood erect and proper. I was quite impressed, and he was rather nice to me," he would tell me.

Grandfather also nearly wet his pants. Though his family was Catholic, documented and safe, he was hiding a Jewish family in the coal cellar. Punishment for such an act would have probably sent the whole family to Auschwitz. Grandfather had a big heart, but was a good liar; his secret was never discovered.

The Russians liberated Budapest in winter 1944 after a month-long artillery barrage. When you visit my grandparents' house in Budapest, you can still see the shrapnel damage.

Worse wounds were to come. After the war the communists came to power and in 1947 nationalized everything, including Karoly's restaurant. Karoly's

restaurant was his livelihood and passion. The communists summarily took it away, and he was hired as a bartender and maitre'd. I don't think he ever got over that indignation, but a good father will do anything to provide.

Life got worse. Karoly's wife, my grandmother, a beautiful athlete who swam for Hungary in the 1936 Berlin Olympics, was diagnosed with brain cancer in 1948 and died within a year. Grandfather did not have much luck, but he did have a big heart and three kids to care for. My dad was the oldest.

Life was tough for my dad in post-war Hungary. My dad being the oldest, with his mother dead, was loaded with burdens, the most memorable was carrying the coal up five flights of stairs and riding his bicycle out of the city to bring home milk for his little brother. Despite hardships, dad still found time to play water polo at his city high school and dream of a better life.

That opportunity came to him and all Hungarians in November 1956. A student uprising grew into popular revolution against the Soviet backed government. Over-taking armories, the revolution was initially successful and the Soviets were ousted from Budapest. For a few glorious days Hungary was free.

A week later the Soviets came back – with tanks. No matter how fervent the desire to be free is, it means little in the face of a tank battalion. It was under these circumstances my father, then 16 years old, decided to flee with 200,000 of his countrymen to the west.

On a cold November night my dad told grandfather Karoly he was leaving. He wanted no part of communist Hungary. Grandfather was none too happy about saying goodbye to his oldest son, much less the possibility he might be killed trying to escape. Neither one has ever told me if they argued or fought over it that night, but my dad was determined to leave with or without permission. The Russians were not in control of the entire country yet, and word on the street was the border to Austria was still porous.

The next morning my father and his buddy Tamas Hefner (yes, a distant relative of Hugh) walked down the apartment stairs to catch a train west to the border. Tamas did not make it past the corner; his father was working outside and sent him back home. My dad made the trip to the border alone. (Forty years later, while working in the U.S. Embassy in Budapest,

Maxims from an immigrant father

1. Hard work overcomes most everything, including poverty.
2. It is a privilege to be able to work.
3. God helps those who help themselves.
4. There is no such thing as demeaning labor if it feeds your family.
5. It's better to work with your brain than with your back.
6. Get an education, it can never be taken from you and it helps with maxim #5.
7. Don't ever think things can't get worse. They can.
8. Bad times do not last forever. Quitting lasts forever.
9. Being happy or sad is a choice. Choose to be happy despite the situation.
10. Love your children more than your own life.

I looked up Tamas Hefner. He is a successful banker and still friends with my dad.)

You could not just waltz across the border into Austria. The official crossing was closed. Where one could cross via farmland, there were open plains, a freezing stream and Russian patrols. A daytime crossing would result in being shot. The cover of darkness offered the only chance to escape, and thousands did.

After the sun went down my dad headed toward the Austrian border. Stripping down he waded across an icy stream with his clothes in a bundle held above his head. After crossing, he put his clothes back on. Still reasonably wet he began the final run. During his night dash across the border my father still remembers every fourth bullet out of the machine gun was a tracer.

My dad still loves Austrian farmers. Once across the border he was literally put up in a barn hayloft. Kind-hearted Austrians repeated similar gestures for weeks along the Hungarian border. The Americans, having somewhat spurred the Hungarian revolution of 1956, set-up refugee camps for the exodus and arranged transportation to the United States. It is here that begins my family's loyalty to this generous nation.

My dad took free passage on a U.S. troop ship across the Atlantic in February 1957. He was 16 years old when he steamed past the Statue of Liberty. He remembers arriving in America with only the clothes on his back, \$1.17 in his pocket and a bottle of baby shampoo given to him at the refugee camp. He spoke no English, and had no high school diploma.

The rest of the story offers a

glimpse of why America can be a beacon of hope. In a thick Hungarian accent my dad will state: "Anyone who wants to work can make it in America." Living in an uncle's basement who immigrated to the U.S. in the 1930s, my dad took the train from New Jersey to New York every day to work in Manhattan's kitchens. He worked constantly, took night school, got his General Education Development (GED), and learned English.

In 1965, he was drafted in the Army and served in the military police in Darmstadt, Germany. He met my mom, another Hungarian, while on leave in the Netherlands. After his two year Army stint, he got married and returned to America where he continued to work long hours in hotel kitchens.

My dad loved to say, "God helps those who help themselves." He lived those words, and through hard work, thrift and perseverance he won the American dream. He bought a home in suburban New Jersey, raised two kids with mom, took the family on vacations back to the old country every fourth summer, fixed his own car and sent two kids to college. During the prime of his career my dad was the executive chef of the famous "Window's on the World" restaurant atop World Trade Center Two in New York City. Pretty good for a guy who showed up here with no English, a \$1.17 in his pocket and a bottle of shampoo. He loves to tell some of this story and say "Only in America!"

I owe America for the opportunity afforded my immigrant family; it is why I joined the Air Force. "America will be viewed as great nation only if she continues to be viewed as good nation," as President Dwight Eisenhower puts it.



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Deadlines

The deadline for articles, briefs and classifieds is Wednesday the week before publication. For holidays, the deadline is one day earlier.

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Publisher

DUI Prevention

May 31 – June 6	0
Total DUIs in June	0
Total in 2006	6

Punishment

.049 or less = car parked for 12 hours
.05-.079 = 6 months walking
.081-.149 = 1 year walking
0.15 or greater = 2 years walking

*Don't
drink and drive.
Call 225-RIDE!*

*Airmen here
deploy to help
deliver aid to
Indonesians
stricken by an
earthquake,
proving they
have what it
takes to ...*



photo by Airman 1st Class Brian Kimball



photo by Airman 1st Class Brian Kimball

Left, Airmen from the 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron prepare pallets for transport to Singapore. Top center, Senior Airmen Joshua Joslyn, 374th LRS, untangles cargo netting to help secure pallets being prepared for transport. Top right, Senior Airman Louis Bradshaw and Staff Sergeant Malik Abdul-Rahmaan, 374th Security Forces Squadron, tie down gear on board a C-130 before departing for Yogyakarta, Indonesia at Paya Lebar Air Base, Singapore.



photo by Senior Airman Javier Cruz

Answer the call for airlift



photo by Senior Airman Javier Cruz



photo by Senior Airman Javier Cruz



photo by Senior Airman Javier Cruz

Combat mobility element Airmen load medical supplies onto a C-130 at Paya Lebar AB, Singapore. Center right, Airmen prepare to unload supplies at Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Bottom right, humanitarian supplies flow into Yogyakarta from numerous countries as part of earthquake relief efforts.

AD

Off base

Firefly Festival: The Hotaru Park is hosting a firefly festival June 17 beginning at 1 p.m. There will be musical performances and food during the day, and visitors can see fireflies at night. It is by the JR Ome Line's Ushihama Station. Call 042-551-1511.

Mitake Shrine performances: The Mitake Shrine is hosting a Kagura dance and Gagaku music performances June 19 beginning at 11 a.m. Take the JR Ome Line to Mitake station, then the cable car to Mount Mitake and hike 30 minutes to the shrine area.

Tokyo Summerland: It is International Weekend at Tokyo Summerland June 24. Admission to the indoor and outdoor pool is free, and one ticket will admit up to three people.

Japanese Iris Festival: The Fukiage Shobu Park is hosting this festival through Aug. 2. More than 100,000 bulbs in 200 colors will be in bloom. It is a 15-minute walk from JR Ome Line's Higashi-Ome Station.

Spring Rose Festa: The Jindai Shokubutsu Park is hosting this festa through Aug. 2. It includes an international competition and displays. Call 042-482-2300.

On base

Movies

Today – *Take the Lead*, PG-13, 7 p.m.; *X-Men: The Last Stand*, PG-13, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday – *Ice Age 2: The Meltdown*, PG, 2 p.m.; *Lucky Number Slevin*, R, 7 p.m.; *X-Men: The Last Stand*, PG-13, 9:30 p.m. (adults only)

Sunday – *Ice Age 2: The Meltdown*, PG, 2 p.m.

Monday – *X-Men: The Last Stand*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Tuesday – *Take the Lead*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Wednesday – *X-Men: The Last Stand*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Thursday – *Lucky Number Slevin*, R, 7 p.m.

All movies and showtimes are subject to change without notice. Call 225-8708.

Fathers' Day

The Officers' Club is offering a brunch June 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is \$19.95 for adults, \$9.95 for ages six to 12, and free for five and under.

The Enlisted Club is also offering a dinner June 18 from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m.

FSC name change

All Air Force Family Support Centers are now known as Airmen and Family Readiness Centers (AFRCs). Only the name of the organization is changing.

School's out party

The Natatorium and East Youth Center are hosting a "School's Out Summer Blast" party June 17 from 2 to 6 p.m. It is open to youth ages nine to 12.

Promotion social

The community is invited to celebrate with the Airmen who will be selected for promotion to technical and master sergeant at the Enlisted Club June 16 at the Enlisted Club beginning at 4 p.m.

MDG hotline

Community members with ideas or suggestions for the medical facilities on base can e-mail 374mdg.cs@yokota.af.mil or call 225-4719.

Flea market

The Yujo Recreation Center is having a flea market June 24 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 225-7713.

Tax center

The base tax center hours are reduced as the tax season winds down. New hours are Monday and Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. People filing 1040EZ forms can use the walk-in hours, Mondays and Tuesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. Visit Tower 3002 or call 225-4926.

The center is closing Thursday. E-filing at the center ends Tuesday. Customers needing tax assistance after the closure must contact Staff Sgt. Courtney Johnson at 225-8924.

Block party

The Enlisted Club is hosting its annual block party June 17 from noon to 6 p.m. in the parking lot area.

Bazaar

The Yujo Recreation Center is hosting a Japanese bazaar June 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Pre-deployment

A pre-deployment briefing is held every Thursday from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Airmen and Family Readiness Center. Spouses are highly encouraged to attend the briefing. Call 225-8725.

VBS

The base chapel is hosting Vacation Bible School (VBS) June 19 to 23 from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration begins Thursday. Children who have completed kindergarten up through the fifth grade may attend. Call 225-3253 or 225-3347.

Chess club

The Samurai Chess Club meets June 21 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Yujo Recreation Center. It is open to community members age 18 or older.

Tama shuttle

A free shuttle to Tama Hills is offered Friday, Saturday and Sunday throughout the summer. Call 225-9520 for departure and arrival times.

Tanabata Dancers

The Tanabata Dancers* are looking for new members to learn traditional Japanese dances and perform them at local festivals. Practices are in the activity room of Tower 2085 near the Enlisted Club Fridays at 6:30 p.m. E-mail tanabata_dancers@hotmail.com.

Comedy show

The Enlisted Club is hosting Chip Flatow and Marvin Lee in its monthly showcase June 16 from 9 p.m. to midnight. It is free for club members, and \$5 for non-members.

Samurai Warrior



of the Week



Tech. Sgt. Morris Banda

Tech. Sgt. Morris Banda, 374th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, is this week's Samurai Warrior of the Week for exhibiting the Bushido qualities of courage, a sense of justice and honesty, and absolute loyalty to one's superior.

He is a C-130 Propulsion Systems craftsman. As the interim specialist section chief, he is responsible for direct supervision and management of 36 maintenance personnel. He has been simultaneously working as the C-130 propulsion system lead technician. Additionally, Sergeant Banda received a zero-defects rating for outstanding performance and attention to detail, earning him the Airlifted Excellence Award from quality assurance inspectors.

Drivers' education

Youth age 16 and older can register for the drivers' education course at the Taiyo Recreation Center. The cost is \$300 for the full course, \$50 for the road test only, and \$175 for drivers' practice and road test. Call 225-6955.

Deployed families

The Airmen and Family Readiness Center is offering a family deployed night June 16 beginning at 6 p.m. Call 225-8725 to register.

Pre-separation

Pre-separation briefings are scheduled for Monday and 26 at the Airmen and Family Readiness Center from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Call 225-8725.

Art trips

The Arts and Crafts Center is hosting a special trip to the Musashino Art University and the Edo-Tokyo Open Air Museum June 17. Call 225-9044 to register.

Japanese cooking

A free Japanese cooking class is Tuesday from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Airmen and Family Readiness Center. The community is invited to learn how to prepare a traditional dish. Call 225-8725.

Chapel Schedule

Traditional (West) Chapel
Catholic: Mass, Sundays at 9:15 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Protestant: Traditional service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Liturgical service Sundays at 12:30 p.m.; Seventh Day Adventists, Saturdays at 9 a.m.

Contemporary (East) Chapel
Protestant: Gospel service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Korean Service, Sundays at 2 p.m.; Contemporary service, Sundays at 5 p.m.

PO disclaimer

An asterisk (*) denotes a private organization. Private organizations are not a part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and have no governmental status.

AD

“Quotes” & Things

“We were the quintessence of athletic atrocity.”

Mike Newlin,
following a
New Jersey Nets loss

Yokota Warriors: The Yokota Warriors varsity football team is playing the Atsugi Falcons Saturday at 6 p.m. at the Yokota High School's Bonk Field.

Baseball: The Yokota Hawks baseball team needs two competitive players to fill out its roster. Players must be at least 18 years old. Call 090-9967-4700.

Swim lessons: The Natatorium is offering swim lessons Monday through Thursday throughout the summer. The first session is June 19 to 29. Call 225-6133.

Boxing: Lessons are offered by Rick Yoshimura Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Taiyo Recreation Center from 6 to 8 p.m.

Outdoor Rec: The Outdoor Recreation Center is offering the following trips: canyoning at Minakami June 14; whitewater rafting at Momijikyo June 17; teen whitewater rafting at Momijikyo June 21; Sabiki-style fishing at Sagami Bay June 24; mahi-mahi lure fishing at Sagami Bay June 28. Call 225-4552.

Archery: An archery camp is being held June 26 to 30 for ages nine to 18 years. Call 225-7422.

Bowling: Tomodachi Lanes is hosting a bowling clinic for adults June 17 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. It is \$6 a person. A tournament follows at 3 p.m. Call 225-7191.

Get into golf!

By Senior Airman Katie Thomas
Editor

The 374th Services Division has golf programs in full swing throughout the summer months.

It kicks off with family moonlight golf June 17 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Par 3 here. At only \$7 a person, families are offered lessons and a round of golf, along with food, prizes and entertainment. Special games and lessons are available for children.

Golf lessons kick off beginning at the end of June.

For children from age six to 14, a week-long clinic is offered. It is designed to teach them the basics of the sport. The \$65 cost includes a partial club set and bag.

Adults can also take advantage of learning more about golf from the professionals here through the Link Up 2 Golf clinics. People who are interested in starting, or perhaps starting up again, their golf game are encouraged to attend. The cost is \$99 a person, and only six people can sign up for each week.

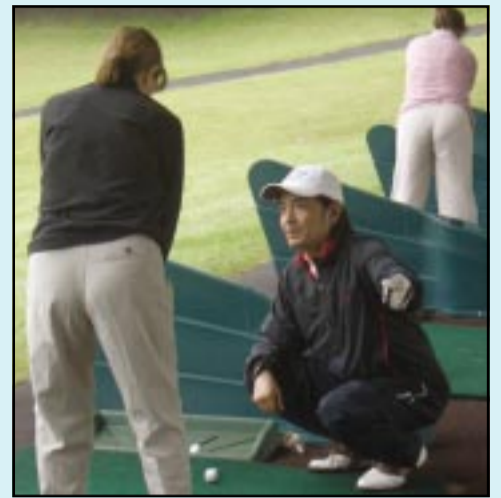
The dates for both children and adult golf clinics are: June 26 to 30; July 10 to 14; July 17 to 21; July 24 to 28; July 31 to Aug. 4; and Aug. 7 to 11. The children's clinic is from 9:45 to 11 a.m., while the adults learn from 4:30 to 6 p.m., all at the Par 3 here.

For those who are more experienced in the game, Tama Hills is hosting its annual amateur open tournament June 24. Players must be either Status-Of-Forces-Agreement



courtesy photo

Professional golfers volunteered to teach golf to students here recently.



courtesy photo

Professionals golfers give lessons during Tama Hills' Ladies tournament May 27.

(SOFA) members or local national employees working at Yokota to sign up. Sign-ups for the tournament end June 16. Breakfast, lunch, golf game and cart are included in the \$50 fee to participate.

Moonlight golf hits the singles scene June 30 from 6 to 9 p.m. SOFA-status members and local nationals are invited to attend, however they must be at least 20 years old. At \$10 a person, the night also offers lessons, food, music, entertainment and prizes. Singles must sign up by June 23 to participate.

For more information about these events, call the Par 3 at 225-8815 or Tama Hills Golf at 224-3426.

Striders' Ekiden on foot Sunday morning, afternoon

By Capt. Ben Alumbaugh
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Ready, set, run!

Approximately 3,000 runners will be on their marks for the 22nd annual Ekiden race will be held here Sunday.

Ekiden, which means “relay” in Japanese, is one of two annual events put on by the Yokota Striders, a private organization started in the early 1980s by the late Chief Master Sgt. Dave Thomas.

The other event held by the Yokota Striders is the Frostbite run in January.

Both events are open to the Japanese public and bring a large

number of Japanese runners to Yokota Air Base every year. Roads throughout the main base area including the south overrun, Par 3 golf course, south gate and middle and high schools will be closed or extremely congested during the race. The race is from 6 a.m. to about 2 p.m.

The ekiden itself is comprised of four person teams that run a five kilometer race and features teams of all different levels.

According to the Striders, the popularity of the ekiden in Japan is unsurpassed in any other country.

“Even though this is a great community relations event and gives us the opportunity to spend time with our fellow Japanese

runners, we are really hoping to see teams from units start participating in the race,” said Amie Kippley, president of the Yokota Striders. “We think it would be a good way to add some friendly competition amongst all the different agencies and units on this base.”

Groups pay a fee to enter the ekiden and after costs are covered the profits are put back into the community per Air Force Instruction.

“Every year we give between 25 thousand and 50 thousand dollars to base organizations,” said Kippley. “Along with the organizations listed by Private Organization donation recipient list,

we also give money to help the 374th Security Forces Squadron as a token of our gratitude for all the help they give us.”

The lengths of ekiden can vary in distance. One of the most popular ekiden is the Hakone Ekiden, which features teams of students from Japanese universities racing from Tokyo to Hakone and back. The event is held over two days during the New Year and is prominently featured on Japanese television across the country.

The Yokota Striders are one of 86 private organizations on base. For more information about the Yokota Striders visit <http://www.yokostastriders.com>.

AD